

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

KATRINA HOUSING TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1562) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and expand certain rules with respect to housing in the GO Zones, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1562

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT RULES FOR BUILDINGS IN THE GO ZONES.

(a) TIME FOR MAKING LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT ALLOCATIONS.—Subsection (c) of section 1400N of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to low-income housing credit) is amended by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6) and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) TIME FOR MAKING LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT ALLOCATIONS.—Section 42(h)(1)(B) shall not apply to an allocation of housing credit dollar amount to a building located in the Gulf Opportunity Zone, the Rita GO Zone, or the Wilma GO Zone, if such allocation is made in 2006, 2007, or 2008, and such building is placed in service before January 1, 2011.”.

(b) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR TREATING GO ZONES AS DIFFICULT DEVELOPMENT AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 1400N(c)(3) of such Code is amended by striking “2006, 2007, or 2008” and inserting “the period beginning on January 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2010”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Clause (ii) of section 1400N(c)(3)(B) of such Code is amended by striking “such period” and inserting “the period described in subparagraph (A)”.

(c) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING IF BUILDINGS ARE FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED.—Subsection (c) of section 1400N of such Code (relating to low-income housing credit), as amended by this Act, is amended by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7) and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING IF BUILDINGS ARE FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED.—For purpose of applying section 42(i)(2)(D) to any building which is placed in service in the Gulf Opportunity Zone, the Rita GO Zone, or the Wilma GO Zone during the period beginning on January 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2010, a loan shall not be treated as a below market Federal loan

solely by reason of any assistance provided under section 106, 107, or 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 by reason of section 122 of such Act or any provision of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006, or the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006.”.

SEC. 3. SPECIAL TAX-EXEMPT BOND FINANCING RULE FOR REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS OF RESIDENCES IN THE GO ZONES.

Subsection (a) of section 1400N of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to tax-exempt bond financing) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 143 and this subsection, any qualified GO Zone repair or reconstruction shall be treated as a qualified rehabilitation.

“(B) QUALIFIED GO ZONE REPAIR OR RECONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘qualified GO Zone repair or reconstruction’ means any repair of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, or Hurricane Wilma to a building located in the Gulf Opportunity Zone, the Rita GO Zone, or the Wilma GO Zone (or reconstruction of such building in the case of damage constituting destruction) if the expenditures for such repair or reconstruction are 25 percent or more of the mortgagor’s adjusted basis in the residence. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the mortgagor’s adjusted basis shall be determined as of the completion of the repair or reconstruction or, if later, the date on which the mortgagor acquires the residence.

“(C) TERMINATION.—This paragraph shall apply only to owner-financing provided after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and before January 1, 2011.”.

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY OF PRACTICES EMPLOYED BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ALLOCATING AND UTILIZING TAX INCENTIVES PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THE GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE ACT OF 2005.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the practices employed by State and local governments, and subdivisions thereof, in allocating and utilizing tax incentives provided pursuant to the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 and this Act.

(b) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report on the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a) and shall include therein recommendations (if any) relating to such findings. The report shall be submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS.—In the case that the report submitted under this section includes findings of significant fraud, waste or abuse, each Committee specified in subsection (b) shall, within 60 days after the date the report is submitted under subsection (b), hold a public hearing to review such findings.

SEC. 5. MODIFICATION OF COLLECTION DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYMENT TAX LIABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6330(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to jeopardy and State refund collection) is amended—

(1) by striking “; or” at the end of paragraph (1) and inserting a comma,

(2) by adding “or” at the end of paragraph (2), and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) the Secretary has served a disqualified employment tax levy.”.

(b) DISQUALIFIED EMPLOYMENT TAX LEVY.—Section 6330 of such Code (relating to notice and opportunity for hearing before levy) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) DISQUALIFIED EMPLOYMENT TAX LEVY.—For purposes of subsection (f), a disqualified employment tax levy is any levy in connection with the collection of employment taxes for any taxable period if—

“(1) the person subject to the levy (or any predecessor thereof) requested a hearing under this section with respect to unpaid employment taxes arising in the most recent 2-year period before the beginning of the taxable period with respect to which the levy is served, and

“(2) such levy is served before February 29, 2016.

For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘employment taxes’ means any taxes under chapter 21, 22, 23, or 24.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to levies served on or after the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.

Subparagraph (B) of section 401(1) of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 is amended by striking “106.25 percent” and inserting “106.45 percent”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, once again I find myself thanking Mr. MCCRERY, the ranking member, and members of the minority on the Ways and Means Committee for moving forward to a piece of legislation, agreeing that it go to the suspension calendar and, more importantly, working with us in bringing about changes in order to make certain that we have a pay-for that is appreciated by the House.

This is important legislation. The Nation suffered a tremendous natural setback with Katrina. Thousands of people in Mississippi and Louisiana felt the pain. And somehow we are sluggishly moving towards some type of solution of this real problem.

One of the major problems, of course, is housing, people not being able to come back. We on the Ways and Means Committee can play some small part in putting together tax incentives to move forward, to make certain that these people have a place to stay and go back to their home.

More important, I am so pleased that JOHN LEWIS will be managing this bill, a man of compassion, a man of understanding, a man that understands the real pain that people have felt and continue to feel. I don’t think there is any Member in the House that I would rather see associated with a bill that brings some type of relief to people who have felt so much pain.

So, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to ask Mr. LEWIS from the sovereign State of Georgia, an outstanding Member of Congress, to

manage the remainder of this time and to distribute it as he sees fit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 1562, the Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007, which was introduced by my friends, the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

It is unfortunate that we continue to deal with the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes of 2005. The imprint left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the Gulf Coast has been well documented. Unfortunately, the slow pace of recovery has also been well documented, despite substantial efforts by the Ways and Means Committee and the Congress as a whole to provide direct and indirect support to the rebuilding efforts.

As part of that effort, the Congress enacted the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005. Among its provisions, the measure authorized a tenfold increase in Section 42 low-income housing tax credits for States in the Gulf Opportunity Zone. At the time, our hope was that putting a fast expiration on those credits would lead to the rapid rebuilding of this much-needed housing. Our experience, however, has shown otherwise. Delays in getting necessary permitting and insurance, combined with the high cost of materials and a shortage of skilled labor, have created a situation in which many of the allocated credits are likely to go unused by the current December 31, 2008, deadline.

The good news for the GO Zone is that credits not used by the end of 2008 will not be lost. Instead, they will revert back to the State for future allocation. But the difficulties on the ground create uncertainty as to whether these projects will be placed in service by the end of 2008.

Witnesses at an Oversight Subcommittee hearing earlier this month warned that many deserving projects that had been allocated credits in Louisiana and Mississippi by the State housing agencies are going unfunded and therefore will not be built by the end of next year.

The measure before us makes several changes to the rules governing low-income housing tax credits in the GO Zone. These changes expire at the end of 2010. Hopefully, the modifications we are making today will allow the States to get these housing projects financed and constructed long before that sunset date.

It is my understanding from the Joint Committee that the cost of this bill is not the result of additional credits being used. Rather, it is that credits will be used more quickly than expected under current law.

Under these circumstances, I believe the changes in the bill before us are an appropriate response to the unique and unprecedented challenges in the gulf

coast region and will help ensure that goals of the 2005 legislation are met. Unique circumstances sometimes require unique solutions.

Finally, I would like to comment on a provision of the bill being used to offset these costs. As originally considered by the committee, the measure would slightly alter the circumstances under which the government can levy the assets of an employer for unpaid employment taxes. During committee considerations, questions were raised about the provision, and I am pleased that the bill we are considering today contains an important modification to the provision that ensures that employers who unknowingly fall behind in their payment of employment taxes are properly protected.

On that count, particular thanks are due to the chairman, the staff of the IRS and the Treasury and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation for their help in working through this difficult but important issue.

Mr. Chairman, let me again express my appreciation to you and your staff for working across the aisle to craft this measure that I hope will make it possible for thousands of residents of the gulf States to go home soon.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on March 13, 2007, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on housing tax issues related to the rebuilding of communities affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. These hurricanes created and caused more damage than any other natural disaster and left over 700,000 residents in the Gulf Coast without housing.

The Congress has provided \$15 billion in tax relief to victims of the hurricanes, but it is clear that we must do more and we can do more. The Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007 will help families affected by the hurricane to return home. This bill will extend incentives for low-income rental housing. It will also expand existing incentives so they can be used to refinance homes that need to be rebuilt from scratch.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. This is a necessary bill. I wholeheartedly support H.R. 1562 and urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York, a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me this time, and I rise in support of the amended version of H.R. 1562 that is before us. I greatly appreciate the remarks of the ranking member of this

side, Dave Camp, as he outlined the legislation and our support for it and the need for it, and the amendments that were brought forth by Chairman RANGEL and by Ranking Member MCCRERY.

Mr. Speaker, it has been that type of cooperation in working on legislation such as this that we were able to take a bill that is vitally needed in the Katrina zone for low-income housing tax credits to work and do their job, but to also make it work for the taxpayers as we consider the PAYGO requirements set forth by the rules of the House. I believe that we have worked diligently, through the efforts of staff on both the majority and the minority and Joint Tax as well as IRS, as has been outlined by previous speakers, to bring forth legislation that will work to get the job done for Katrina victims, for the States and, importantly, to see a recovery come about under the intent of this legislation. So I am going to support it.

I greatly appreciate the cooperation of Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCRERY in working forward to have legislation language that meets some of the outlines of concerns that Mr. JOHNSON and I had and have been fully met by their hard work.

□ 1945

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 1562.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman PASCRELL.

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina was more than a natural catastrophe. The painful images of folks suffering, dying, and calling desperately for help will forever be seared in our collective conscience. I rise today in strong support of the Katrina Housing Relief Act, critical legislation designed to respond to the needs of hurricane victims by getting affordable housing in the gulf coast region expeditiously built.

I want to commend Chairman RANGEL for the steady hand he has displayed in crafting this legislation and also for the collegial spirit he has fostered on the Ways and Means Committee thus far. This is the second noteworthy tax package that has come to the floor in recent weeks, and I am heartened at the bipartisanship that has been displayed. And when it comes to helping those who suffered from Katrina, bipartisanship is the only way to operate.

Unfortunately, the immediate response from Washington was handled poorly, insufficiently, and only exacerbated the suffering. Today, we take a step in the right direction. We need to get help to people and get them back in their homes, and this bill does that.

H.R. 1562 strengthens existing tax incentives to builders of affordable rental housing by extending the current deadline within which those units must be inhabited by an extra 2 years, to 2010. The bill makes it easier for a greater number of homeowners to benefit from tax-exempt bonds issued by local governments for substantial renovations and to refinance existing residential mortgage loans.

These are prudent, practical measures that will do a great deal of good for those in need. I implore my colleagues to support this bill. I again commend the leadership for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. I want to thank my colleague. I also want to thank Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCRERY for bringing this bill to the floor.

And while I am pleased that this bill is being brought to the floor this evening, its title is actually a misnomer. The Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act also covers many areas hit by my district in southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas, those areas hit by Hurricane Rita.

My district in southwest Louisiana received about \$10 billion in damage from Hurricane Rita, and this was to small rural communities that don't have the ability to bounce back. As we recover in southwest Louisiana, we have learned all too well that government cannot micromanage the full recovery process, and this GO-Zone legislation has played a very important role in providing a foundation for businesses and families to get back on their feet. So I am pleased that today's legislation extends many of these successful provisions and programs for southwest Louisiana communities.

Two of the most important include an extension of the placed-in-service deadline and a waiver of the 10 percent rule for GO-Zone credits. These provisions will help those who are on the front lines of our housing recovery, rather than revert funding back to the State.

Additionally, the bill allows GO-Zone low-income housing projects to receive additional federally subsidized loans without facing a reduction in tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, while I take issue with the bill's title, I fully support its provisions. It is a good bill. Again, I thank Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCRERY for their support and urge support of this bill.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3¼ minutes to the gentleman

from Louisiana, who represents New Orleans in the Congress, Mr. JEFFERSON.

Mr. JEFFERSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1562, the Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007.

I am extremely grateful to Chairman RANGEL, Ranking Member MCCRERY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CAMP, and the members of the Ways and Means Committee for their bipartisan support of this bill and for bringing it to the floor in this expeditious manner. As Chairman RANGEL stated, it represents this Congress "doing our part," he said, "to make things right and that begins with helping people get back to their homes."

Few needs are greater in the city of New Orleans and surrounding areas than affordable housing. One New Orleansian who currently resides in a FEMA trailer 1 hour north of the city surmises that many people want to move back to the city, but after looking at the rental prices has said, who could afford that? In the gulf coast, Katrina destroyed over one-quarter million homes. More than 30 percent of these losses involved affordable housing losses, most of which were rental properties.

Post-Katrina, the average rental payment in New Orleans has risen 70 percent. Before Katrina, Mary Wright of our city paid about \$300 in rent. Now she pays triple that amount. There are folks who were paying about \$500 in rent are now paying \$850. New Orleans' population has diminished to only 237,000 residents from 437,000 before the storm. It is not because residents do not wish to return. It is because many cannot afford to return. The lack of affordable housing has caused not only a problem for citizens wishing to return, but it is also a problem for developers, planners, and investors who are strapped in their options to increase affordable housing. The lack of quality affordable housing that is sustainable discourages the return of a workforce and the restoration of the economy of the city.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit is of great assistance to helping our people of the gulf region return home. The credits will be competitively awarded to qualified developers who are then put under the constant scrutiny by our State housing authority to ensure that the buildings that are built are quality affordable housing. The safeguard in the system also provides for 30 years of high-quality housing, and for 15 years the rental properties developed using these tax credits must be maintained as affordable units. Should the properties not continue to meet the criteria specified when receiving the reward, the IRS will recapture the tax credits.

In December of 2005, Congress passed the Gulf Opportunities Zone Act, and among other much needed tax incentives it included a significant increase in housing credits for the Gulf States,

and a 130 percent basis boost in which they treated all regions as difficult to develop areas, thus allowing them more funding for rebuilding.

The gulf coast faces many obstacles to redevelopment. Extending the placed-in-service deadline for both the credits and for the treatment of difficult to develop areas will remove one of them by giving planners and developers in these communities a reasonable time to effectively reinvest in that community.

Finally, mortgage revenue bonds have provided over 3.5 million lower-income Americans affordable homeownership opportunities and another 1 million with rental housing opportunities. Since Katrina, they have backed many homeowners but their utility has been limited in that these bonds are typically for first-time home buyers only. Provisions in this legislation waive this requirement for those whose homes were damaged by the hurricanes. This will assist with the rebuilding efforts, allowing mortgage revenue bond proceeds to go towards refinancing home loans, to free up funds for the reconstruction of homes and renewal of families.

We need to do everything we can to facilitate recovery, and this bill removes critical obstacles to rebuilding the homes, rental properties, indeed the very life blood of the families of the gulf region. I urge passage and full support of this legislation.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2¼ minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON).

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I would like to thank the leadership for the bipartisan effort also. It has been a long 18, going on 19, months for the folks of Louisiana; and this is the kind of thing that they have needed for a long time.

I am here today to speak in support of the Katrina Housing Tax and, as Mr. BOUSTANY pointed out, the Rita Housing Tax, also, which will extend important tax credits and waivers that are boosting rebuilding efforts along the gulf coast.

It is hard to exaggerate the devastation Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused in south Louisiana. Over 1 million people had to flee their homes, and over 200,000 homes were damaged or completely destroyed. In St. Bernard Parish, a community to the east of New Orleans that I represent, it is reported that only five or six homes out of the 27,000 were inhabitable after the storm. It will take many years to repair the damage Katrina and Rita and the levee failures caused in just a few days.

The enormous extent of the damage and the unprecedented time and money it will take to recover are why we need to pass the Katrina-Rita Housing Relief Act. For south Louisiana to rebuild, we need to continue encouraging developers to build affordable housing,

not just high-priced condos. There is a severe housing shortage in the region, and rental prices have increased by 39 percent and more since the storm. Home sale prices in suburban parishes have also skyrocketed. Average working people can't move home because they can't find affordable housing.

One of the most important features of this bill is the extension of the Gulf Opportunity Zone low-income housing tax credit until the end of 2010. Louisiana is offering these tax credits to developers who build affordable housing in the hurricane-affected communities, but current law requires that developers have the project built and occupied by the end of 2008.

In the post-storm world of south Louisiana, this is almost impossible. The Housing Financing Agency in New Orleans estimates that 65 percent of the affordable housing units under development, about 11,050 units, won't make the deadline to be available for rent by the deadline at the end of 2008. Add all the extenuating circumstances of post-Katrina Louisiana, mold remediation for flood-damaged rehabilitation projects, elevation of property, getting permits, going through the zoning requirements, all the things that take time, including needing water, sewer, and gas lines, there is no way that developers can finish.

Finally, as a fiscal conservative and a Blue Dog, I want to point out that this bill follows House PAYGO rules and will not increase the deficit. In fact, the offsets that are contained in the bill will cause an increase in revenue.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia, and I thank the bipartisan effort of the committee.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I fully support H.R. 1562, the Katrina Housing Relief Act of 2007. Adequate and affordable housing is a basic human right, and today Congress is stepping in again to give our citizens of the gulf coast some help. This bill will provide tax incentives to ensure that adequate and affordable housing is available in the gulf coast region.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for this bill.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I rise today in support of the amended version of H.R. 1562. During the Committee debate on this bill I raised concerns about the revenue offset used to pay for this legislation. The original bill would have permitted the IRS to seize the assets of a taxpayer prior to a hearing. The provision was scored as raising \$240 million. The reason for the change was that there are some taxpayers who are serial abusers of the payroll tax withholding mechanism who needed to be shut down to prevent a drain on revenues.

The problem is that we cannot begin to close the tax gap at the expense of basic civil liberties. We would have a taxpayer revolt at such heavy-handed tactics. Congress put in place many taxpayer protections against

heavy-handed IRS tactics and I think we need to be very careful as we contemplate rolling back any of them in the name of closing the "tax gap."

The amended bill before us now would go after the serial abusers of the payroll tax system. It would require that if someone has already been through the hearing process in the last two years, then they don't get to keep scamming the tax system. They cannot hide behind the protections meant for taxpayers who have simply made a mistake in filing payroll taxes for their employees.

The protection of having a hearing prior to IRS seizure of assets is important in many circumstances. One of the leading reasons for this protection is innocent spouse relief. If a husband messes up his company's payroll taxes in one quarter, the Committee approved bill and the version already approved by the other body, would have allowed the IRS to seize his wife's assets and give her no ability to claim innocent spouse relief until roughly eight months after the seizure. I don't think this is good policy and I think it is a lousy way to close the "tax gap."

I commend Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCRERY for working to be sure that these situations are addressed by the amendment we have worked out. I hope that whenever the House and Senate put this revenue raiser into a final agreement later this year, that the House version prevails.

Again, I support the version of this legislation that we are debating on the House floor today and I want to personally thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for working so hard to address these concerns.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1562, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2000

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa). Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. HINCHEY, New York
Mr. HILL, Indiana
Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, California
Mr. CUMMINGS, Maryland
Mr. DOGGETT, Texas

NATIONAL BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1132) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1132

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM.

Title XV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300k et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1501(d)—

(A) in the heading, by striking "2000" and inserting "2020"; and

(B) by striking "by the year 2000" and inserting "by the year 2020";

(2) in section 1503, by adding at the end the following:

"(d) WAIVER OF SERVICES REQUIREMENT ON DIVISION OF FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a demonstration project under which the Secretary may waive the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (4) of subsection (a) for not more than 5 States, if—

"(A) the State involved will use the waiver to leverage non-Federal funds to supplement each of the services or activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1501(a);

"(B) the application of such requirement would result in a barrier to the enrollment of qualifying women;

"(C) the State involved—

"(i) demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, the manner in which the State will use such waiver to expand the level of screening and follow-up services provided immediately prior to the date on which the waiver is granted; and

"(ii) provides assurances, satisfactory to the Secretary, that the State will, on an annual basis, demonstrate, through such documentation as the Secretary may require, that the State has used such waiver as described in clause (i);

"(D) the State involved submits to the Secretary—

"(i) assurances, satisfactory to the Secretary, that the State will maintain the average annual level of State fiscal year expenditures for the services and activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1501(a) for the period for which the waiver is granted, and for the period for which any extension of such waiver is granted, at a level that is not less than—

"(I) the level of the State fiscal year expenditures for such services and activities for the fiscal year preceding the first fiscal year for which the waiver is granted; or

"(II) at the option of the State and upon approval by the Secretary, the average level of the State expenditures for such services and activities for the 3-fiscal year period preceding the first fiscal year for which the waiver is granted; and

"(ii) a plan, satisfactory to the Secretary, for maintaining the level of activities carried out under the waiver after the expiration of the waiver and any extension of such waiver;

"(E) the Secretary finds that granting such a waiver to a State will increase the number of women in the State that receive each of the services or activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1501(a), including making available screening procedures for both breast and cervical cancers; and

"(F) the Secretary finds that granting such a waiver to a State will not adversely affect the quality of each of the services or activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1501(a).